

REMARKS

In the Office Action Summary, the U.S. Patent Examiner has indicated that Claim Nos. 1 – 8, 21 – 24, and 26 – 34 are pending in the application, all of which have been rejected for the reasons stated on Page Nos. 2 – 5 of the Office Action. Claim No. 27 has further been objected to for the reasons set forth on Page No. 2 of the Office Action. The U.S. Patent Examiner has indicated that Claim Nos. 1 – 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Notwithstanding U.S. Patent Examiner Bradford's allowance of Claim Nos. 1 – 8, 21 – 24, and 26 – 34 in the Office Action dated February 9, 2006, Applicant has amended Claim Nos. 1 – 8 in order to more precisely claim the subject matter applicant regards as his invention. With regard to Claim Nos. 21 – 24, and 26 – 34, Applicant has made further amendments to Claim Nos. 21 – 24, and submits that the invention as claimed in Claim Nos. 21 – 24 and 26 – 34 antedates the subject matter as allegedly found in provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 60/477,276, filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 10, 2003. In this last regard, Applicant submits herewith an Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 along with evidence in the form of exhibits to support this affidavit.

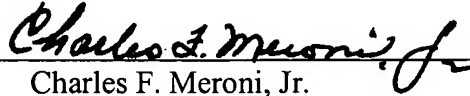
If, after a review of this Amendment, issues remain which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the U.S. Patent Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney. If attempts to reach the undersigned attorney are not successful, please be advised that Christopher J. Scott, Registration No. 48,647, may also be contacted with regard to this matter. Mr. Scott has been in regular communication with

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Amdt. Dated May 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated April 17, 2006

the undersigned regarding the Office Action and this Amendment. Further, Mr. Scott is listed under our Firm's Customer Number with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, namely, Customer Number 30114, and thus may be deemed a proper representative of Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,
Attorney for Applicant

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charles F. Meroni, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Charles F. Meroni, Jr.
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